

REMARKS

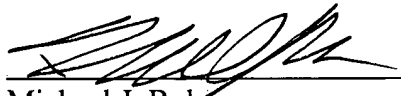
With entry of this amendment, claims 47-52 and 56-61 have been cancelled, thereby rendering any objections and rejections of these claims moot. Claims 43-46, 53-55, and 62 remain pending. Of these pending claims, claims 43-46 and 53-55 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over various claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,793. Without acquiescence that claims 43-46 and 53-55 of the present application are not patentably distinct over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,793, Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer that is believed to overcome the double patenting rejections of these claims, and as such, respectfully requests withdrawal of the obvious-type double patenting rejections of claims 43-46 and 53-55.

Claim 62 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as claim 20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,793. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since claim 20 additionally requires, by virtue of independent claim 12, the control circuitry to be configured for “conditionally operating the medical probe based on . . . a presence of a probe usage indicator,” whereas claim 62 of the present application does not require this element. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the statutory double patenting rejection of claim 62.

Based on the foregoing, all claims are now believed to be allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (714) 830-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 7/19/07

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Enclosure: Terminal Disclaimer